GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2372
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
VOTING RIGHTS TO NRIs
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to give voting rights to Non- Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of NRIs likely to get voting rights; and

(c) the time by which the NRIs are likely to get voting rights?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a): Yes, Sir. Gazette Notification has been issued giving voting rights to Non-Resident Indians.

(b) & (c): Citizens of India who have not acquired the citizenship of any other country and are living abroad owing to employment, education or otherwise, are now eligible to register their names in the electoral rolls in the constituency of the address shown in their passport and to vote when they are present at the time polls are held. It is estimated that there are about 11 million NRIs. The Election Commission of India is likely to finalize in the near future the rules and regulations prescribing the modalities for NRIs to enter their names as voters in the Electoral Rolls of the concerned constituency. Thereafter, NRIs' will be able to register themselves and exercise their voting rights.